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Saudi Arabia

Poultry and Products

Saudi Arabia Removes Import Ban on U.S. Live Poultry
and Hatching Eggs

2005

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Report Highlights:

On March 22, 2005, the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) lifted the temporary import ban imposed on live poultry and hatching eggs from the United States out of fear that they might be infected with Avian Influenza. This decision will pave a way for the immediate resumption of exports of U.S. live poultry and hatching eggs to Saudi Arabia.

Includes PSD Changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

Riyadh [SA2]

[SA]

Ban On U.S. Living Poultry and Hatching Eggs Removed

On March 22, 2005, the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) lifted its temporary import ban on live poultry, chicks and hatching eggs from the United States out of fear that they might be infected with Avian Influenza (AI). The ban was put in place on March 13, 2004 following reported outbreaks of AI in several states in the U.S.

The MOA imposed the import bans on U.S. live poultry on two occasions:

1. On March 13, 2004, a temporary import ban on live poultry, chicks and hatching eggs was placed due to the reported infection of 85,800 five-week-old chickens with AI in Kent and Sussex Counties of Delaware.
2. On November 5, 2003, a similar ban was imposed on importation of live U.S. birds, day-old-chickens and hatching eggs out of fear that they might be infected with the West Nile Virus (WNV). On September 6, 2004, the MOA lifted the import ban it had issued due to concerns associated with WNV. However, it decided not to issue import licenses for U.S. live poultry and hatching eggs until the disease is eradicated in the U.S. and declaration to that effect is made by the OIE (World Organization of Animal Health).

The MOA's decision to remove the AI and WNV related import bans will reopen the more than \$4.2 million export market for U.S. companies involved in the exportation of U.S. live poultry and hatching eggs to the Kingdom.

The following table shows the Kingdom's imports of U.S. live poultry and hatching eggs in 2003.

Product	Value in USD
Live poultry	842,000
Baby chicks	839,000
Eggs	2,563,000
Total	4,244,000

Source: U.S. Trade Statistics (FATUS Export Aggregations)